

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KATO, et al.

Filed: July 12, 2000

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING
METHOD THEREFOR

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

July 12, 2000

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find a List of documents cited in connection with prior applications of the above-identified application. The listed documents were cited in at least one of the following U.S. patent applications for which benefit is being claimed under 35 USC 120 in the above-identified application:

- (1) Application Serial No. 09/552,572,
filed April 19, 2000;
- (2) Application Serial No. 09/461,432,
filed December 16, 1999;
- (3) Application Serial No. 09/177,495,
filed October 23, 1998;
- (4) Application Serial No. 09/061,062,
filed April 16, 1998;
- (5) Application Serial No. 08/882,731,
filed June 26, 1997, now U.S. Patent
No. 5,784,799, issued July 28, 1998;
- (6) Application Serial No. 08/593,870,
filed January 30, 1996, now U.S.
Patent No. 5,661,913, issued
September 2, 1997;
- (7) Application Serial No. 08/443,039,
filed May 17, 1995, now U.S. Patent

No. 5,553,396, issued September 10, 1996;

- (8) Application Serial No. 08/096,256, filed July 26, 1993, now U.S. Patent No. 5,349,762, issued September 27, 1994; and
- (9) Application Serial No. 07/751,951, filed August 29, 1991, now U.S. Patent No. 5,314,509, issued May 24, 1994.

In particular, note that each of the listed documents cited in connection with prior applications, was cited in application Serial No. 09/552,572, filed April 19, 2000. In addition, note that in the Second Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 submitted April 19, 2000 in prior application Serial No. 09/552,572, filed April 19, 2000, a discussion of various of the submitted documents, and a full English translation of JP No. Sho#63-153270, were submitted.

The listed documents have been cited in connection with at least one prior application of the above-identified application for which priority has been claimed under 35 USC 120. Accordingly, copies of the listed documents are not enclosed.

Of the listed documents, in the First Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 filed April 19, 2000 in prior application Serial No. 09/552,572, attention was particularly directed to the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 4,836,905 to Davis, et al., of the listed documents.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted concurrently with the filing of the above-identified

application. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the requirements of 37 CFR 1.97(b) are satisfied.

To the extent that the listed documents are not in English, it is respectfully submitted that the requirements of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) are satisfied by the abstracts/translations of various of the documents not in English, as well as the above-mentioned comments in the Second Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 submitted April 19, 2000 in prior application Serial No. 09/552,572.

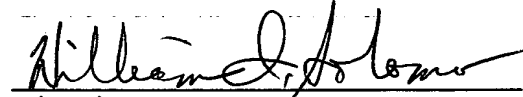
In view of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with the listed documents. Accordingly, consideration of these listed documents, upon examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit

Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 503.30414V17) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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